

Hopkins County, Texas.

Sulphur Springs, the County Seat, the Trading Center of Adjoining Counties.

A FEW POINTERS TO THOSE SEEKING HOMES.

It is the part of wisdom, if one is looking for a home, to turn to those places that have not the greatest booms, but to those that are susceptible of the greatest development, that have the most promising outlook and varied resources. Hopkins county, with Sulphur Springs as its geographical center and county seat, is such a locality. The city is not only the center of trade for Hopkins county, but for many years has controlled the trade of Wood, Franklin, Delta, Rains, and even Hunt counties.

Hopkins county was organized in 1846, and has had a marvelous growth. The general surface is level, but it is sufficiently undulating to provide thorough drainage. The soil varies from light sandy to rich loam and black waxy. The county is traversed by numerous running streams on the banks of which grow splendid forests of the various kinds of oak, elm, ash, hickory, walnut and other useful timbers in quantities sufficient for all time to come. The higher ground dividing these streams, is covered with rich, rolling prairies divided into thousands of fertile farms, orchards, and pastures. The timbered lands are all very productive when cleared, and produce the best long staple cotton grown in the South, also good corn and grain; while its fruits rival those of the Golden State. The farms are especially adapted to corn and small grain, while the fenced pastures and out-lying lands are covered with a luxuriant growth of grass, upon which graze large herds of cattle, horses, and sheep. This stock needs but little attention during the mild winters that prevail. Hogs thrive in the timbered lands, living on acorns and nuts of various kinds, and hundreds of car-loads of these and other stock are annually shipped from Sulphur Springs.

The Hopkins County Wool Growers' association controls more wool than any other similar association in the South, and so superior is the quality of this product that it is eagerly bought up by manufacturers in the East in the Boston wool exchange, and the fact is so strongly recognized that many attempts have been made to sell wool from other sections as Sulphur Springs wool.

So great indeed is the variety of farm products that should any one be cut short by an adverse season the abundant harvest of the others, together with the handsome prof-

its realized on the sale of various kinds of stock and stock products, make the thrifty husbandman independent. No section of the South or prosperous agricultural region yields the farmer a larger return for his labor, and no country is susceptible of higher development. Property of all kinds can still be had at very low and reasonable rates, but it is constantly increasing in value, having about doubled since 1888.

The county seat, Sulphur Springs, is the commercial center, and reflects the prosperity of the splendid country with which it is surrounded, and is the chief trading center not only of this county but of the surrounding ones. The city is more favorably situated than any other of its size in the state, and a glance at the map will clearly show that it is destined to be the leading commercial and manufacturing center of this portion of the state. It occupies the geographical center of a square of land bounded by the Transcontinental, the Texas and Pacific and the Texas central railroad lines, and is connected by direct lines with Texarkana, Sherman, Denison, Dallas, Fort Worth, Jefferson and Marshall. This territory embraces some of the most prosperous farming and pasture lands in Texas, and it is to this country that Sulphur Springs offers the accommodations of her banking, commercial and manufacturing facilities. It is the largest city in the square, as to its tributary territory, is without a rival. It is the only city that has made great progress in a manufacturing way, and the only one blest with an abundance of pure water and cheap fuel, which are indispensable to manufacturers. It has an ice factory, oil mill, tannery and harness manufactory, two furniture factories, a cotton compress, an oil refinery, an iron foundry, a soda and mineral water factory and bottling establishment, a wagon factory, manufacturers of confectioneries, mattresses and wire fencing, large lumber yards, and planing mills, brick yards and marble yards. Street-car lines are chartered, and the city council are arranging matters for waterworks, and electric light plants. The Cotton Belt railroad company has put on an extra fast train from Fort Worth to Memphis via Sulphur Spring, which gives the city quick connection with that railroad and commercial center, Fort Worth. The narrow-gauge branch of the Missouri Kansas and Texas railroad is to be changed

to a standard gauge, the work being already begun.

The city has two prosperous national banks with ample capital. There are about 100 stores and shops of trade that carry heavy stocks and afford sharp competition. The population in 1870 was 1000, and in 1888, over 4500. The assessed values have increased from \$800,000 in 1880, to \$1,300,000 in 1888. The volume of trade has increased proportionately. In 1888 the mercantile transactions were estimated at \$450,000 for dry goods, \$500,000 for groceries, \$75,000 for hardware, \$20,000 for agricultural implements, \$100,000 for lumber, \$25,000 for produce, and other lines \$100,000. There are more than one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars invested in manufacturing now and more being put in. Sulphur Springs last year handled 15,000 bales of cotton at \$675,000; 2000 barrels of sugar cane syrup at \$40,000; 150,000 pounds of wool, 50,000 bushels of corn, 5000 tons of cotton seed, and an enormous quantity of smaller products. In all the bank clearings in 1889 were over \$2,000,000. Yet in spite of this grand showing property is cheaper in Sulphur Springs than than in any other town of its size in the state and there is a better field for investment than can be found in any young town with no substantial improvements.

The mineral wells are acquiring a national reputation and bringing the city to the front as health resort. The fine water, an able corps of physicians, the pure atmosphere and the delightful climate make it one of most beneficial health resort in the country.

In educational matters Sulphur Springs stands without an equal. Central college has a beautiful new property worth \$35,000, and a handsome endowment. It is a chartered institution under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal church. The East and West End colleges are under the management of the city. Together with the ward schools, more than a thousand pupils attend these schools. There is a handsome two-story building for the colored children.

All the leading religious denominations are represented in church organizations and have handsome church buildings.

Sulphur Springs is the headquarters of the District Alliance for the district embracing a territory of over seven thousand square miles. It is also the state headquarters for the Ohio Oil company.

A system of water works is under contract.

The Citizens of Sulphur Springs will offer Superior Inducements for the establishment of a Cotton Factory, a Cotton Bagging Factory and Woolen Mills

For further information address W. C. Hargrove, T. F. Gafford, City National Bank, First National Bank, or A. P. Landers, County clerk.